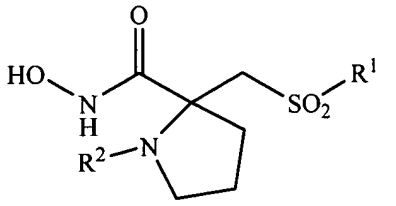
Amended Claims

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

15. **(currently amended)** A compound **or a salt thereof, wherein:**

the compound corresponds in structure ~~**corresponding**~~ to Formula IV:



IV ;

~~**wherein**~~

R^2 is **selected from the group consisting of** hydrido, C_1-C_8 hydrocarbyl, C_1-C_6 hydrocarbyloxycarbonyl C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl, aryl C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl, heteroaryl C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl , aryloxy C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl, **and [[or]]** heteroaryloxy C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl; and

R^1 is ~~**a substituent containing a**~~ **phenyl** ~~**single aryl**~~ or **5- or 6-membered** heteroaryl ~~**radical**~~ bonded directly to the depicted SO_2-group that is ~~**itself**~~ substituted at its ~~**own**~~ 4-position when a 6-membered ring and at its ~~**own**~~ 3- or 4- position when a 5-membered ring with a substituent selected from the group consisting of ~~**one other**~~ **phenyl,** single-ringed ~~**aryl or**~~ heteroaryl ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** C_3-C_{14} hydrocarbyl ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** C_2-C_{14} hydrocarbyloxy ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** phenoxy ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** thiophenoxy ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** 4-thiopyridyl ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** phenylazo ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** phenylureido ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** nicotinamido ~~**group**~~, **[[an]]** isonicotinamido ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** picolinamido ~~**group**~~, **[[an]]** aniline, ~~**group**~~ and benzamido ~~**group**~~.

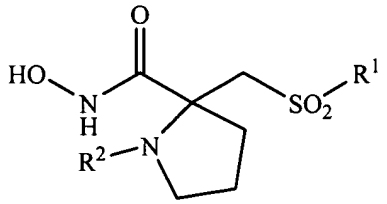
16. **(currently amended)** The compound **or salt** according to claim 15, wherein:

~~**said**~~ R^1 ~~**radical is PhR^3 in which Ph**~~ is phenyl substituted with R^3 at the 4-position; **[[,]]** and

R^3 is **selected from the group consisting of [[a]]** phenyl, phenoxy, thiophenoxy, anilino, phenylazo, benzamido, nicotinamido, isonicotinamido, picolinamido, **and [[or]]** phenylureido ~~**group**~~.

17. **(currently amended)** ~~**The**~~ **A** compound **or a salt thereof** ~~**according to claim 15,**~~ wherein:

the compound corresponds in structure to Formula IV:



IV ;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrido, C_1-C_8 hydrocarbyl, C_1-C_6 hydrocarbyloxycarbonyl C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl, aryl C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl, heteroaryl C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl , aryloxy C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl, and heteroaryloxy C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl;

~~**said**~~ R^1 ~~**radical is PhR^3 in which Ph**~~ is phenyl substituted with R^3 at the 4-position; **[[,]]** and

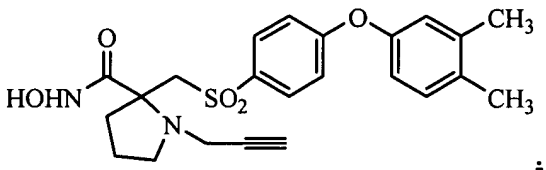
~~**said**~~ R^3 is **selected from the group consisting of [[a]]** phenyl, phenoxy, anilino, thiophenoxy, benzamido, nicotinamido, isonicotinamido, picolinamido, **and [[or]]** phenylureido, **wherein the phenyl, phenoxy, anilino, thiophenoxy, benzamido, nicotinamido, isonicotinamido, picolinamido, and phenylureido** ~~**group that**~~ is optionally substituted:

at the meta- or para-position or both with a ~~**moiety that is**~~ **substituent** selected from the group consisting of **[[a]]** halogen, **[[a]]** C_1-C_9 hydrocarbyloxy ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbyl ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** di-C_1-C_9 hydrocarbylamino ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** carboxyl C_1-C_8 hydrocarbyl ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyloxy carbonyl C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl ~~**group**~~, **[[a]]** C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyloxycarbonyl C_1-C_4 hydrocarbyl, ~~**group**~~ and **[[a]]** carboxamido C_1-C_8 hydrocarbyl ~~**group**~~, or ~~**is substituted**~~

at the meta- and para-positions by two methyl groups or by methylenedioxy ~~**group**~~.

Claims 18-24 (canceled)

25. **(currently amended)** A compound **or a salt thereof, wherein the compound corresponds** ~~**corresponding**~~ in structure to the formula:



Claims 26-31 (canceled)

32. **(new)** A method for treating a mammal having a condition associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, wherein the method comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound recited in claim 15 or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

33. **(new)** A method for treating a mammal having a condition associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, wherein the method comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound recited in claim 17 or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

34. **(new)** A method for treating a mammal having a condition associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, wherein the method comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound recited in claim 25 or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.